

THE DAILY BANNER.
PLYMOUTH, IND.
Thursday Morning, Feb. 22, 1855.

Education.

Education is the life of improvement. There are few subjects which have so frequently engaged the attention of the literary portion of community as the instruction of the young, and yet there is no subject about which so many vague and erroneous notions generally prevail. No term in our language has been more abused and misapplied than that of education. By the great majority of our countrymen it is considered as consisting merely in the acquisition of pronunciation, spelling and grammar; of writing, casting accounts and the knowledge of languages. These acquisitions are considered of value, chiefly, as they prepare the individual for engaging in certain occupations, and are instruments in procuring his subsistence. By others it has been confined to the communications of the elements of thought and the improvement of the intellect. And, by a comparatively small number, it has been regarded chiefly as the formation of character, and the cultivation of moral habits. But education should not be confined exclusively to either of these objects.

It consists of a comprehensive and harmonious combination of them all, including every means, and every mode of improvement, by which intelligent beings may be enabled to knowledge and virtue, qualified for acting on honorable posts on the theatre of this world, and prepared for that immortal existence to which they are destined. It is deeply to be regretted that up to the present hour, with very few exceptions—in an age of such liberal and enlightened—the system which education has generally been conducted, is repugnant to the dictates of reason, inefficient for enlightenment, and mortifying the human mind.

The short of an insult offered to the understandings of the young. While almost every literary book which has for its object the great object which education ought to promote, have been miserably neglected, a forge of worms has been substituted in the place of things more substantial, the elements of language have been preferred to the elements of thought, the key of knowledge has been exhibited instead of knowledge itself, and the youthful mind at the termination of the common process of instruction is almost as destitute of ideas as at its commencement. At that period of life, when the minds of the young are beginning to expand, when they ardently thirst after novelty and variety, when they are alive in the beauties and sublimities of nature and listen with delight to the descriptions of other countries and the tales of other times, instead of being gratified with the exhibition of all that is interesting in the scenes of creation and the history of man, they are set down in a corner to plod over unknown characters and strange sounds. No pleasing objects are exhibited to inspire them with delight. Their memories are burdened, and even tortured, while their understandings are neglected; and after many painful efforts intermingled with cries and tears, while the dearest lash is hanging over their heads: they are enabled to repeat like a number of puppets their medley of grammars, their psalms, their hymns, their catechisms, and their speeches from the English and Roman classics, pouring out their words with a velocity like water bursting from a spout, without a single correct idea connected with their exercises—understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm. Hence it has frequently happened that the school room has been viewed as a prison, their teachers as a species of tyrants, and the scholastic exercises in which they are engaged as repugnant to their mutual vivacity and subversive of their youthful pliancy. In consequence of this, they have not unfrequently been known to the village school like sheep to the slaughter, and like criminals to a jail, or carried on the shoulders of their companions amidst cries, lamenations and forebodings of punishment.

In seminaries of a higher order than those to which we now allude, five or six years are generally spent in learning the definition of nouns, the conjugation of verbs and the rules of syntax, and in acquiring a smattering of the Roman classics, while at the close of this tedious and the pupil revolting process, he has not unfrequently quitted the scene of instruction as ignorant of the character and attributes of the true God, of the doctrines of the christian religion, and of the temper which it inculcates as if he had been tutored in a pagan land. But everything is improving, and there is certainly a great need of improvements to be made yet on the instruction of the young. There are, at least, easier ways in which our youth may be taught to read and write.

The citizens of North Madison celebrated the passage of the temperance bill by the firing of cannon, ringing of bells, and a grand illumination.

THE LIQUOR LAW.

On our first page we give the Liquor Law entire. Notwithstanding the many conjectures of voting from sources not considered posted in the actions of Gov. Wright; he, the Governor, signed it on the 16th and it now stands a law to take effect on the 1st of June. It is not necessary for us to make any comments. The Governor, it is said, did not take any interest in the debate, but signed it to fulfill his promise in his annual message.

The European News by the Asia in another column is interesting. The British Ministry has resigned and no one has been found able to form a Ministry. The cause of Lord J. Russell resigning was the recalling of Lord Raglan from the Crimea. His Lordship and Lord Palmerston urged on their colleagues the absolute necessity of recalling Lord Raglan at once. The Earl of Aberdeen would not consent. The Queen and Prince Albert were opposed to such proceedings; and Lord John, despairing of success in the Crimea while the army was in command of Lord Raglan, forced a crisis by resigning. Lord Palmerston still insisted upon the recall of Lord Raglan, hence his refusal to join Lord Derby.

Our Bank List is corrected, this week, from the "State Sentinel." The only alterations are: Huntington County bank from class No. 2, to No. 1, and the Savings bank, Connersville, which has been out a few weeks, is added to class No. 1.

Discussion on the Temperance bill at its final Passage.

Mr. Brown said he looked upon this as the most important bill of the session. He came here to vote for a strong temperance law. To that he would not prove false. But there were some provisions in this bill which did not suit him, and many other good temperance men in the State. Senators minds were no doubt already made up, and, to test the merits of this bill, he moved to strike out from the enacting clause and insert a substitute which he held in his hand.

The substitute was read by the Clerk. Mr. Suit regretted that the bill was called up at the present time. It was only printed and laid upon the table yesterday. He had not had time to read it. He looked upon it as next the most important question to be met this session. The great mass of the moral portion of our people desired a strong prohibitory law, it was true, and it was equally true that there was a large number of good sober citizens opposed to it. If a law was passed, it should be one that would meet the approbation of the people.

Mr. Shock did not feel prepared to vote on either bills at that present moment. The bill reported by the committee did not meet his approbation in some particulars, and he could not vote for it without being amended. He hoped it would be laid on the table for the present.

Mr. Anthony saw no necessity for delay. There were other important measures yet pending before the Legislature, and among them, the bill for the establishment of a central depot of the provisions greatly relieved the condition of the troops.

The bill has been a continual fall of snow, and it is now three feet and a half deep on the ground.

Movements are observed among the Russians, and it is reported Gen. Lepachin has received a strong body of reinforcements.

The thirty-ninth British Infantry has disembarked, and the steamer Simla arrived with four hundred horses.

The new fortifications at Odessa are completed, and the fortresses at Kavkaz, Omaia, Karsk and Sosk Kars are being strengthened. A change in the Turkish ministry was expected.

The report that Schmahl, the Turkish commander in Asia Minor, who was dead in battle.

A second foreign legion is being formed in France. Some new arrests have been made in Spain, on suspicion of a Carlist conspiracy, and it is reported the Carlists have sent extensive funds to Holland. Numerous arrests have been made in Italy, at Florence, and elsewhere, particularly in Milan.

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Hous.—The House went into Committee of the Whole upon the bill providing for the payment of a portion of the Texas debts as come within the provision of the existing law.

Mr. Gilmer was opposed to the expenditure of the public money in this way, while Ohio and the other States had to pay their own debts.

Mr. Jones of Tennessee, moved an amendment, by reducing the appropriation of the bill from \$3,500,000 to \$5,500,000. This was objected to by several members, who said the bill, in that shape would be rejected by Texas.

Hous.—Feb. 7.—The Texas' proportion bill was passed cutting down the appropriation from \$3,500,000 to \$3,600,000. The vote was 133 to 43—the two Texas Representatives voting in the negative.

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